

NEW NAMES IN TIMONIUS

E. D. MERRILL

IN 1901 Britten¹ called attention to Trimen's² observation that the generic name *Timonius* dates only from 1830, when de Candolle gave a formal generic description and associated this old Rumphian monomial of 1743 with the binomial system, and that rightly this generic name should be superseded by *Nelitris* Gaertner (1788). Gaertner's figure is a representation of the fruit of a *Timonius*, but in his text he confused it with some species of *Eugenia*, this leading to de Candolle's erroneous application of *Nelitris* to a genus of myrtaceous plants, properly *Decaspermum* Forster. *Nelitris* as a genus is typified by *N. Jambosella* Gaertn. = *Timonius Jambosella* Thwaites. *Timonius* (Rumph.) DC. is typified by the Moluccan form originally described by Rumphius and variously known as *T. Rumphii* DC. and as *T. sericeus* (Desf.) K. Schum. The two species are generally considered to be congeneric, but, as Alston³ pointed out Valetton in 1909 considered the Ceylon species to be referable to *Bobea* Gaudich. If this disposition of it be correct and it still be desirable to retain *Bobea* Gaudich. as generically distinct from *Timonius* DC., then doubtless Alston is correct in retaining *Nelitris* Gaertn. in place of *Bobea* Gaudich. In retaining *Nelitris* Gaertn. in this sense Alston states: "Valetton has referred this [*Timonius Jambosella* Thw.] to *Bobea* Gaud. and though *Nelitris* Gaertn. is one of the "nomina rejicienda" of the International Rules I think that it should be adopted in preference to *Bobea* Gaud." As I understand the International Code *Timonius* DC. was protected against replacement by the earlier *Nelitris* Gaertn., but this has no bearing on the case of *Nelitris* Gaudich. versus *Bobea* Gaudich. Britten further called attention to the fact that *Eri-thalis Timon* Spreng. was the first published binomial for the type species of *Timonius*, and in accepting *Nelitris* to replace *Timonius* proposed the new binomial *Nelitris Timon* (Spreng.) Britten.

The genus is largely characteristic of the Malaysian region, with few representatives in Ceylon, Seychelles, Madagascar, Australia, and New Caledonia, about twelve in Micronesia and Polynesia, and twenty-five in

¹Jour. Bot. 39: 69. 1901.

²Fl. Ceyl. 2: 339. 1894.

³ALSTON, A. H. G. in TRIMEN, H. Hand-book of the flora of Ceylon 6: (Suppl.) 151. 1931.

the Philippines. In 1909 Valetton¹ published a critical consideration of the Malaysian species, not including the Philippine ones, thirty-three species being then known to him, and he estimated that a total of about fifty-five species were then known in the entire range of the genus. At the present time a total of about 150 species are known for which there have been published in *Timonius* and in reduced genera about 190 binomials. By far the richest area is New Guinea.

Timonius (Rumphius, 1743) de Candolle (1830) was fortunately conserved by the Vienna Botanical Congress over *Nelitris* Gaertner (1788), *Porocarpus* Gaertner (1791), *Polyphragmon* Desfontaines (1820), *Helospora* Jack (1823), and *Burneya* Chamisso & Schlechtendal (1829), otherwise, as *Nelitris* Gaertner is the oldest generic name, unless it be true that the Ceylon *Timonius jambosella* Thwaites is really a *Bobea*, it would be necessary to transfer from *Timonius* to *Nelitris* approximately 150 binomials, a high percentage of which have been published within the present century. The synonymy of the type species of *Timonius* is as follows:

Timonius Timon (Spreng.), comb. nov.

Erithalis Timon Spreng. Pl. Min. Cogn. Pugil. **1**: 18. 1813.

Polyphragmon sericeum Desf. Mém. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris **6**: 6. t. 2. 1820.

Erithalis polygama Forst. var. *timonius* Willd. Sp. Pl. **1**: 997. 1798.

Timonius Rumphii DC. Prodr. **4**: 461. 1830.

Timonius sericeus K. Schum. Fl. Kaiser-Wilhelmsl. 131. 1889, Bot. Jahrb. **13**: 433. 1891; Valetton, Bull. Dep. Agr. Ind. Néerl. **26**: 52. 1909; Merr. Interpret. Herb. Amb. 486. 1917.

Nelitris Timon Britten, Jour. Bot. **39**: 68. 1901.

Timonius Rumph. Herb. Amb. **3**: 216. t. 140. 1743.

The species is recorded from Timor, Banda, Amboina, Ternate, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and eastern Australia. *Timonius sericeus* var. *tomentosa* Valetton, Bull. Dep. Agr. Ind. Néerl. **26**: 53. 1909 occurs in New Guinea and in Queensland and var. *grandiflora* K. Schum. in K. Schum. & Lauterb. Fl. Deutsch. Schutzgeb. Südsee 568. 1901 in New Guinea. Of the binomials cited above *Timonius Timon* Merr., *Nelitris Timon* Britten, *Erithalis Timon* Spreng., and *Timonius Rumphii* DC. are based in Rumphius' description and illustration of *Timonius* or *Timon*, there being no extant type. Robinson Pl. Rumph. Amb. 166 from Amboina, the type locality, still known there as *timon* is an excellent representation of the plant Rumphius described and illustrated. *Timonius Rumphii* sensu Wall. List no. 6217, 1832, Hook. f. Fl. Brit.

¹VALETON, T. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Gattung Timonius. Bull. Dep. Agr. Ind. Néerl. **26**: 1-61. 1909.

Ind. 3: 127. 1880, non DC., of the Malay Peninsula, is the distinctly different *Timonius Wallichianus* (Korth.) Valetton.

In addition to the above change of name, three additional ones are indicated:

Timonius octonervius, nom. nov.

Timonius ferrugineus Valetton, Bot. Jahrb. 61: 40. 1927, non Merr. 1915.

Timonius papuanus, nom. nov.

Timonius involucratus Valetton, Bot. Jahrb. 61: 41. 1927, non Merr. 1917.

For the two New Guinea species here renamed, Valetton overlooked my earlier use of the same specific names for Bornean species in 1915 and 1917.

Timonius Ridleyi, nom. nov.

Timonius hirsutus Ridl. Jour. Straits Branch Roy. As. Soc. 77: 239. 1918; Fl. Malay Penin. 2: 115. 1923, non Merr. 1917.

Ridley's Malay Peninsula species needs a new name, as one year earlier I had published the same name for a different Bornean species.

ARNOLD ARBORETUM,
HARVARD UNIVERSITY.